



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

COUNCIL AMENDS SNOW REMOVAL LEGISLATION

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The Montgomery County Council today approved legislation clarifying who is responsible for clearing snow from commonly owned walkways.

The new legislation specifies that snow removal on land that is common property but is between a single-family house and the common walkway is the responsibility of the resident. It amends a county law approved on October 16, 2000 that goes into effect this winter designed to promote pedestrian safety, especially for students, seniors and people with disabilities.

"This bill attempts to address some of the concerns homeowners associations have raised with the original snow removal bill," said Councilmember Isiah Leggett, who introduced the legislation.

The county law requires property owners or tenants to remove snow or ice from public walkways adjacent to their properties within 24 hours of a snowfall. The County Executive can order a different deadline if conditions are severe. Violators face a \$50 fine if they do not remove the snow within 24 hours of being notified of the violation, though the emphasis will be on voluntary compliance.

The county's law is similar to snow removal requirements now in effect in county municipalities of Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, Kensington, Poolesville and Chevy Chase Village. In the Washington region, Prince George's and Howard counties, the City of Frederick, the District of Columbia and Alexandria also have snow removal laws.

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